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BOOK REVIEWS

The Swiss Civil Code. Translated by Robert P. Shick. Corrected and revised by Eugen Huber, Alfred Siegwart, and Gordon E. Sherman. Official publication of the Comparative Law Bureau of the American Bar Association. Pages XXXII and 262. Boston Book Co. Boston, 1915.

Since 1912 the Swiss people no longer live under the enormous and vexatious handicap of 20 odd varieties of cantonal or state law. The remedy selected to cure the Swiss affliction of diversity of law was thoroughly successful: namely *federal* legislation making *one* system of *uniform* private law for all Switzerland.

Would that the Swiss success will enlighten the promoters of the American movement for uniform private law via *state* action: their remedy is but a palliative for our great diversity of private law and cannot effect a cure, for when American uniformity via state action is once obtained it remains permanent (like the changing Negotiable Instruments Act) only so long as each American state refrains from exercising its natural right to tinker any law. Federal codes of private law did not annihilate the Swiss states; neither will federal codes destroy the American states.

The English translation of the new Swiss Civil Code reflects great credit upon Mr. Shick, whose very exacting work has been excellently done. His uniform terminology and clearness deserve special praise. Mr. Shick's work was given the benefit of a careful revision not only by two distinguished Swiss and German jurists, but also by Professor Gordon E. Sherman of the Faculty of Law, Yale University.

C. P. S.

Woodbine's Bracton. Bracton De Legibus et Consuetudinibus Angliæ Vol. I. Edited by Professor George E. Woodbine. Yale University Press. New Haven. 1915. pp. XII, 422, quarto. Price \$5.00 net.

Through the scholarly labors of Professor Woodbine of Yale University and the generosity of the late Mr. John E. Parsons of New York, the Yale University Press has been enabled to begin the publication of what promises to be the long desired definitive edition of Bracton. The volume here noted is handsomely